

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, independent claims 1 and 2 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 9, which depends from claims 1 or 2. Accordingly, claim 9 is cancelled.

No new matter is added, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. After entry of the Amendment, claims 1-8 and 10 will be pending.

I. Applicants' Response to the Examiner's Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-4, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by the English Abstract of JP 2001-256967.

Without acquiescing in the merits of the rejection, independent claims 1 and 2 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 9, which depends from claims 1 or 2. Claim 9 is not subject to the present rejection and was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 8 and 10 based on Ohara.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by the English Abstract of JP 2001-243952.

In order to advance prosecution, claims 1 and 2 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 9, which depends from claims 1 or 2. Claim 9 is not subject to the present rejection and was indicated to be allowable.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 8 and 10 based on Takeuchi.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-6, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by the English translation of JP 2002-015729.

As noted above, without acquiescing in the merits of the rejection, claims 1 and 2 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 9, which depends from claims 1 or 2. Claim 9 is not subject to the present rejection and was indicated to be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6, 8 and 10 based on Kono.

II. Applicants' Response to the Examiner's Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Ohara or Kono.

Without addressing the merits of the rejection, independent claims 1 and 2 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 9, which depends from claims 1 or 2. Claim 9 is not subject to the present rejection and was indicated to be allowable.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 based on Ohara and Kono.

III. Conclusion

Allowance of claims 1-8 and 10 is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 10/502,268

Attorney Docket No. Q82688

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

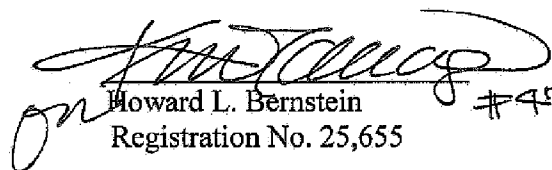
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER


Howard L. Bernstein #47121
Registration No. 25,655

Date: June 12, 2007